



You've got the Look

Aruba Model Search 2007 begins!

On Thursday, March 7, Ronchi de Cuba, Director of the design house "Trash" and organizer of a number of international model competitions that have taken place in Aruba in the past, announced the beginning of "Aruba Model Search (AMS) 2007" would begin with official inscription on March 17, at the Havana Beach Club.

During a press conference at Mulligan's Restaurant at the Divi Links, Ronchi introduced a number of sponsors and individuals that made the first AMS such a success last year, and who will also be involved in this year's series of events.

The Aruba Model Search offers an opportunity for the island's youth to be noticed and recruited by some of the top modeling agencies in the world. Last year's pageant attracted dozens of international agency representatives to Aruba, plus fashion magazine editors, some of which acted as judges for the finals.

Last year's winners in the male and female category, Jean Phillip Flanegin and Angie Thijzen signed contracts with the Marilyn Agency and Request, and appeared in print campaigns and on fashion runways in the past year. Not only the winners, but also a number of the five finalists in both gender categories, such as Fernando Metz, were offered contracts by renowned model agencies and have begun careers as international models.

A number of the various events of the Aruba Model Search are telecast live on TeleAruba, Channel 13, the island's national TV station, and provides islanders with their "ultimate reality show." The shows are very popular with Arubans as following the trials and triumphs of their children or those of their neighbors and relatives is very involving, and inspiring to those that are interested in a career in fashion.

The initial inscription will take place beginning on Saturday, March 17 at 6:00 PM, and two hundred candidates, ages fifteen through nineteen, will be chosen to undergo makeovers and the training necessary to be a professional model. Ronchi informed the press that this would be covered and broadcast live on TeleARUBA. The first episode of the "You've Got the Look" series officially begins on Wednesday, March 28 at 9:00 P.M. Additional air dates include each following Wednesday through April, May and June. The series will be broadcast in not only Aruba, but Curacao and Bonaire as well. Successive episodes will demonstrate the training process, and the winnowing down of the initial 200 to the finalists.

The final pageant will be broadcast on Sunday, June 10, and as last year, a number of representatives from top modeling agencies such as Marilyn, Wilhelmina Models, Request, Elite, Mega Miami, Karin and Next will be present.

Ronchi de Cuba wished to also mention the many that contribute their time to making the Aruba Model Search a success, and introduced local model Sharina Mackay, who will act as Hostess AMS007. He thanked their sponsors, Subway, SETAR, N.V., The Jungle, Tropical Bottling, Benetton, Moth Silver Shop, Kok Optica, TEC Agency and others for their involvement in offering this exciting career training and opportunity to the island's youth.

Ronchi also reminded the public that Aruba Model Search offers not only international careers to the winners, but that his Knock-out Model Agency is always on the lookout for talent for their many local contracts, and offers an opportunity for a career in fashion in Aruba. He urges all that are considering modeling to either attend the initial inscription at Havana Beach Club, or to stop by his design house and fill in a form. For more information about participation, call Elizette Wernet at 582-6632 or 593-9419, or Mickey Gravenhorst at 567-2688.